

Historic, Archive Document

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62.63

1895

History of Shortia School.

In the autumn of 1886, the present master of Shortia School opened a private school at Highlands, in North Carolina. This school was of the grade of the average high school and was known as the Highlands Academy. It was the intention of the founder to add manual training for boys and cooking for girls as soon as funds could be raised for that purpose.

Though 104 pupils were enrolled the first year, owing to the low rate of tuition the school did not pay its expenses. This led the principal, Mr. Harbison, to offer his services as botanical collector, and after a three days search farther down the stream along which Dr. Sargent had re-discovered Shortia, in the locality where Michaux had discovered it about one hundred years ago, a considerable amount of Shortia was found; and from the sales of that rare and interesting little plant funds enough to meet the deficit were raised.

This encouraged the founder to continue the school, and from the sales of Galax leaves, and other rare and beautiful plants from the mountains, enough was realized to furnish free books to all, the greater part of the seven years during which the school was open; and from funds raised in various other ways, on an average six pupils were given free books and free tuition, and the same number were given free books and half-rate tuition.

But the school was not successful financially, and as the funds to carry out manual training could not be raised, it was for a short time discontinued. The friends of the school, however, prevailed upon its founder to re-open a school at Highlands. A property, thirty-five acres, right in the village, was purchased as a site for the school. Here gardening and sloyd, in addition to the ordinary branches are to be taught.

Before re-opening the school the master spent the winter and spring of 1894 in studying similar schools in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany

in order that he might be the better prepared to oversee and carry on the work in the new school.

SHORTIA saved the academy in its infancy and we count largely on SHORTIA to help the new school in its beginning; furthermore SHORTIA is the only one of its family in all these mountains and our little school is the only one of its kind here, so we have named the new school The Shortia School.

"OUR BURDEN AND OUR STRENGTH."

To establish and support a manual training school here, funds are needed. We have pressing needs, and are situated in a poor country—poor in money, though richly endowed by nature.

As SHORTIA School is private and non-sectarian, gifts and bequests are not asked for. We prefer to give value received for all we get. The school is situated in a region where latitude and altitude, combined with our peculiar geological formation, have produced a rare and beautiful flora. In this, we hope, lies our strength. Gardening, botany, and the elements of forestry will receive a full share of attention; and if we can secure a very small share of the retail trade in native ornamental plants, our gardening department can be made self-supporting and we trust be made to contribute towards the support of the sloyd department.

In this little circular we can name but a few of the plants we can furnish. All, except those that bear transplanting from woods to lawn without danger of dying, are garden grown plants with good tops and well rooted. The few plants we name below are all well worthy of a place in our private grounds. A few of them are rare as well as beautiful. To all who desire us to do so, we will give special directions how and where to plant in order that the best results may be obtained.

PRICE LIST.

HERBS.

	Each.	Doz.	Hundred.
SHORTIA GALACIFOLIA,	.25	2.50	10.00
A rare and very beautiful little evergreen flowering plant, with an interesting history.			
GALAX APHYLLA,	.25	2.00	6.00
One of Shortia's few relatives. Very beautiful and a fitting companion for Shortia.			
PARNASSIA ASARIFOLIA,	.25	2.00	6.00
Grows in moist places and bears waxy looking white flowers nearly an inch in diameter.			
IRIS VERNA,	.25	1.50	5.00
A pretty little Iris that should please the most fastidious.			
HELONIAS BULLATA,	.25	2.00	10.00
One of our finest and rarest big plants.			
LILIUM SUPERBUM,	.25	2.00	8.00
Few plants are more ornamental than this lily which grows from 5 to 8 ft. in height and bears as many as 25 beautiful flowers.			
TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORUM,	.25	2.00	10.00
TRILLIUM ERECTUM,	.20	1.50	8.00
CYPRIPEDIUM PUBESCENS,	.25	2.00	8.00
This large yellow Lady's-slipper should be in all collections of hardy perennials.			
CYPRIPEDIUM ACAULE,	.25	1.50	6.00
Another orchid worthy of cultivation.			

SHRUBS.

	Each.	Doz.
STUARTIA PENTAGYNA,	.50	5.00
An American Camellia, rare and very beautiful.		
CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA,	.30	2.50
Well worthy of a place in our grounds.		
KALMIA LATIFOLIA,	.50	4.00
Our mountain laurel, one of the most beautiful of our evergreen flowering shrubs.		

	Each	Doz.
RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM,	.50	5.00
Our largest Rhododendron, and one of the finest shrubs in all the world.		
RHODODENDRON CATAWBIENSE,	.50	5.00
Rarer than <i>maximum</i> .		
RHODODENDRON PUNCTALUM,	.50	4.00
A smaller plant, but beautiful and worthy of cultivation.		
RHODODENDRON VASEYI,	.60	6.00
This is a deciduous Rhododendron and resembles the Azaleas. By many this is considered our finest deciduous shrub. Nothing could be more beautiful than a bed of Vaseyi. Rare.		
AZALEA CALENDULACEA,	.50	5.00
Flame colored azalea, gorgeous and beautiful.		
AZALEA ARBORESCENS,	.40	4.00
Large white azalea, beautiful and deliciously fragrant.		
CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICA,	.40	4.00
Virginia Fringe Tree should have a place on every lawn. As its name would suggest, it bears pure snowy-white fringed flowers.		

TREES.

TSUGA CAROLINIA,	.50	5.00
Carolina Hemlock is our rarest evergreen, and we have nothing finer.		
ANDROMEDA ARBOREA,	.50	5.00
This tree andromeda is beautiful at all times, but especially so in autumn.		
HALESIA TETRAPTERA,	.50	5.00
Silverbell or Snowdrop Tree as it is commonly called, is a small tree with mottled bark, and, as its name suggests, bears white bell-shaped flowers.		

These and many other herbs, shrubs, and trees we can furnish in large or small quantities, and can ship either in spring or fall as best suits the convenience of the purchaser.

Address all orders and communications to

SHORTIA SCHOOL,
HIGHLANDS, N. C.



